THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The projected requirement of diesel) and electric locomotives is 1800 nos. each by the end of eleventh plan.

(b) The capacity of both Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi for diesel and Chittranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) for electric locos, is being augmented from 150 to 200 locos per annum.

(c) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways proposes to set up manufacturing unit for diesel locos at Marhowra and at Madhepura for electric locos. Both these units are approved for being set up as departmental Production Units at present.

(d) There are only two leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) of high horsepower diesel locomotives in the world both of whom had shown interest by responding to the Request for Qualification. For electrical locomotives, three leading OEM of high horsepower locomotives had shown interest by responding to the Request for Qualification.

Railway projects in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

1606. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing and new railway projects and the surveys in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the progress regarding completion of said projects as on date;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the said projects and spent till date project-wise; and

(d) the time by when the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Informalion is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Separate railway zone for Kerala

1607. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is empowered to form Railway Zones for different parts of the country;

(b) if so, what is the criteria for fixation of Railway Zones in the country; and

(c) what are the reasons for not allowing a separate railway zone for Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New zones are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating / administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency without any regional considerations.

(c) Some States including Kerala have requested for separate zone. As of now, no decision to form a new zone has been taken.

Upgradation of passenger amenities

1608. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after upgradation of Railway station, the passenger amenities and appropriate passenger facilities would also be upgraded;

(b) if so, why in Orissa the facilities have not been upgraded even though many railway stations have already been upgraded; and

(c) whether Railways have plan to extend the railway platforms of Jajpur Keonjhar Road and also increase and upgrade the passenger amenities such as foot-overbridge, platform shed, bathroom, rest-rooms in Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Korai Bandallo, Baitarani Road, Jakhopura and Jenapur railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Upgradation of passenger amenities at railway stations commensurate with increase of passenger amenities is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities. Out of 258 stations in Orissa, 40 stations have already been provided with upgraded passenger amenities.

(c) Work of extension of platforms has been completed at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road station. Further upgradation works have been taken up which include construction of foot over bridge at Baitarani Road, provision of 2 bay platform shelter at Jakhopura, provision of 2 bay platform shelter and deluxe toilet at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and extension of foot over bridge and provision of 1 bay platform shelter at Jenapura. These works are planned for completion by March, 2010. As regards Korai station, Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) have already been provided as per norms.

Employment of dependants of victims of Coromandal Express accident

1609. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways had offered employment to the dependants of the victims of Coromandal Express in Orissa on 12/13th February, 2009; and

(b) if so, the number of persons who had died in the accident, the number of persons who have applied for appointment in the Railways and the progress, so far, made to provide suitable appointments to the applicants?